

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 ISO-00 OES-09 DLOS-09 IO-13
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TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
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TO USINT HAVANA
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178847

MEXICO/TOKYO - FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, CU, HK

SUBJECT: CUBAN SHARK FISHERY

REF: HAVANA A-34, JUNE 14, 1978

1. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA,
COMMERCE COMPARED CUBAN SHARK FIN EXPORT DATA IN REPAIR
WITH HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS AND FOUND CONSIDERABLE
DISCREPANCIES. HONG KONG SHARK FIN IMPORTS (IN METRIC
TONS AND U.S. DOLLARS) WERE AS FOLLOWS:

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1973 - 1.8 T, 19,406 DOLLARS (10,902 DOLLARS PER T)
1974 - 10.1 T, 92,738 DOLLARS (9,218 DOLLARS PER T)
1975 - 4.4 T, 36,040 DOLLARS (8,154 DOLLARS PER T)
1976 - 8.5 T, 92,719 DOLLARS (10,934 DOLLARS PER T)
1977 - 5.2 T, 71,057 DOLLARS (13,718 DOLLARS PER T)

2. SUCH STATISTICAL DISCREPANCIES ARE NOT UNUSUAL WHEN

COMPARING IMPORT AND EXPORT DATA FOR TRADING PARTNERS. DIFFERENCES MAY BE DUE TO TIME LAG BETWEEN SHIPMENT OF EXPORTS AND RECEIPT OF IMPORTS, TRANSHIPMENTS, SUBSTANTIAL SHARK FIN EXPORTS TO OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES, ETC. CARRILLO'S STATEMENTS MAY REFER TO CURRENT (1978) EXPORTS AND PRICES.

3. FAO REPORTS THAT THE TOTAL CUBAN SHARK CATCH AMOUNTED TO 3,500 T IN 1974. THE CUBANS HAVE NOT SUBMITTED MORE RECENT FISHERIES CATCH DATA TO THE FAO. IF MORE RECENT DATA FOR SHARK AND OTHER SPECIES IS AVAILABLE FOR 1975, 1976, AND 1977, NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE THE INTERESTS SECTION FORWARDING THE INFORMATION TO NMFS (F411), NOAA, COMMERCE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20235.

4. CUBA HAS PROVIDED NMFS THE FOLLOWING DATA ON THEIR SHARK CATCHES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO:

1972 - 117.1 T
1973 - 414.3 T
1974 - 612.6 T
1975 - 860.8 T
1976 - 1,000.4 T

THE CUBANS INDICATED THAT ABOUT 75 PERCENT OF THE
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ABOVE TOTALS WERE TAKEN IN THE U.S. FISHERY
CONSERVATION ZONE. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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